

James 4:11-17: The responsibility of love and Practical atheism

- I. Js. 4:11-17.
 - A. James addresses the spiritual family.
 1. Themes of speech
 2. Christian life founded on two great commandments of loving God and neighbor.
 - B. Practical atheism
 1. Self-sufficient vs. God-reliant
 2. Christian's need to recognize God's governance of their life.
 3. Pride and doubt of God's love vs. dependency on Him.
 - C. See Ex. 20:16; Lev. 19:16; Mt. 22:36-40; Catechism #2477-78.

- II. James 5:1-6
 - A. The rich are taken to task over 4 things:
 1. Hoarding wealth
 2. Withholding wages
 3. Live in luxury
 4. Take advantage of the poor in courts
 - B. James puts this confrontation of the rich in the context of their final judgement.
 1. Almsgiving and mercy are opposite of hoarding
 2. See Ex. 3:7-10; Ex. 22:21-22.

- III. James 5:7-11
 - A. James speaks to the community.
 1. Holy Spirit arouses the person to see their life in light of eternity.
 2. God's nature is compassionate and love. See 1John 4:8
 3. Christian is to be single-minded vs. double minded, meaning faithfulness.

- IV. James 5:12-20
 - A. Exhortation to prayer in every situation
 1. V. 14- call of the priests to anoint.
 2. Oil-Mt. 10:1 Jesus equips his Disciples to anoint. Lay on of hands
 3. "in the name of the Lord"-I am see Ex. 3:14. God makes his dwelling with us.
 4. Name of Jesus is the presence and power that overcomes evil, sickness, death. To pray with his name means to be in union with him.

5. Prayer of faith-to trust, believe, Jesus to perform miracles.
 - a. Sozo-save the sick person
 - b. Raise up the dead: healing
 - c. Forgive sins

B. Confession of sins 5:16-18

1. Baptism is the place of forgiveness of sins
2. Confession is for the baptized person afterward they become a Christian if they sin.
3. James places a lot of confidence in prayer by using Elijah as an example.

C. James 5:19-20

1. Spiritual work of mercy is to reconcile sinners to the Lord.
2. Response is: repentance and faith.